IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(Previously Presented) Polycrystalline alumina components optionally containing MgO in a concentration of at most 0.3 wt-%, wherein the alumina contains a concentration from 0.1 to 0.5 wt-% inclusive ZrO_2 as an additive and has an average crystal size$\leq$2 μm, a relative density higher than 99.95%, with a real in-line transmission RIT$\geq$30% measured over an angular aperture of at most 0.5° at a sample thickness of 0.8 mm and with a monochromatic wavelength of light λ, and wherein the ZrO_2 additive has an average particle size of at most 100 nm.

2.(Previously Presented) The polycrystalline alumina components according to claim 1, the wherein average crystal size is $\leq$1 μm and the real in-line transmission RIT is at least 40%.

3.(Previously Presented) The polycrystalline alumina components according to claim 1, wherein the ZrO_2 additive is in a concentration from 0.1 wt-% to 0.3 wt-%, inclusive.

4. (Previously Presented) A discharge lamp comprising a discharge tube having a wall of a ceramic as claimed in claim 1.

5.(Previously Presented) The discharge lamp according to claim 4 wherein the discharge tube has an ionisable filling containing a metal halide.

6.(Withdrawn) A method for forming a polycrystalline alumina component , wherein the method includes the acts of:

preparing a slurry of corundum power with a mean grain size ≤ 0.2 μm,

adding a dopant, selected from zirconia and a zirconium containing precursor, wherein the dopant has an average particle size of at most 100 nm,

casting the slurry in a mould to form a moulded body, drying and sintering of the moulded body, and

performing a HIP treatment at a temperature of at least 1150° C. for at least 2 hours.

7.(Withdrawn) The method according to claim 6, wherein the dopant is added as finely grained ZrO_2.

Claim 8 (Canceled)

9.(Withdrawn) The method according to claim 6, wherein after the adding act, the prepared slurry is slip cast in a mould.

10.(Withdrawn) The method according to claim 6, wherein after the addition of the zirconia dopant the prepared slurry is gel cast in a mould.

11.(Currently Amended) Polycrystalline alumina components comprising alumina which contains ZrO_2 in a concentration between 0.1 to 0.5wt-% inclusive as an additive, wherein the alumina has an average crystal size ≤ 2 μm, and has a relative density higher than 99.95%, and wherein the additive has an average particle size of at most 100 nm.

12.(Previously Presented) The Polycrystalline alumina components of claim 11, wherein the alumina contains MgO in a concentration of at most 0.3 wt-%.

13.(Previously Presented) A discharge lamp comprising a discharge tube having a wall of a ceramic as claimed in claim 11.

14.(Withdrawn) A method for forming a polycrystalline alumina component as claimed in claim 11, wherein the method includes the acts of:

preparing a slurry of corundum power with a mean grain size ≤ 0.2 μm,

adding a dopant, selected from zirconia and a zirconium containing precursor,

casting the slurry in a mould to form a moulded body, drying and sintering of the moulded body, and

performing a HIP treatment at a temperature of at least 1150° C. for at least 2 hours.

15.(Previously Presented) The Polycrystalline alumina components of claim 11, wherein transparency of the alumina is at least 30% having a real in-line transmission RIT≥30% measured over an angular aperture of at most 0.5° at a sample thickness of 0.8 mm and with a monochromatic wavelength of light λ.

16.(Previously Presented) The polycrystalline alumina components of claim 11, wherein the RIT is based on a following relationship:

$$RIT = (1-R)\exp(-\frac{3\pi^2 Gd\Delta n^2}{2\lambda_0^2})$$

where

R is a coefficient of surface reflection,

d is the sample thickness,

G is the average crystal size,

Δn is an effective birefringence of alpha-alumina calculated as a weighted average of refractive index differences between each of main optical axes, and

λ_0 is the monochromatic wavelength of the light in vacuum.